

THEATRE COLLAPSE DUE TO VIBRATIONS, N. Y. EXPERT SAYS

H. B. Seaman Thinks Large
Fans or Street Cars Caused
Roof to Fall.

(From a Staff Correspondent of The
Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Henry B. Seaman, Chief Engineer of the Public Service Commission of New York City, who spent twenty-four days investigating the crash of the American Theatre Building in Brooklyn, believes the collapse of the Knickerbocker was due to vibration caused either by the large fans which operated the cooling system of the theatre or by the constant passing of street cars on both sides of the structure.

"I have examined the ruins of the Knickerbocker," he said, "and I believe when the final results of all the investigations are in it will be found that vibration from the fans or from the constant passage of street cars caused the catastrophe. The walls, being of hollow tile, a construction that never should have been permitted in a building of this character, were without the necessary solidity to resist vibration."

"I believe, after a brief examination, it will be found that one of the short truss rods, probably the one leading to a point just over the stage, slipped from its base and, in slipping, turned the main truss to such an extent that the main truss slipped clear of its foundation and fell, bringing down the whole roof."

Mr. Seaman talked to Engineer-Commissioner Keller about the accident, but did not make an official report.

"I called his attention to the use of the hollow tile in the construction of a wall of that magnitude, and its use as a base for heavy beams," said Mr. Seaman, "but he said the building code permitted the use of such material. I had nothing more to say."

Mr. Seaman refused to compare the crash of the American Theatre with that of the Knickerbocker.

"My report on the American Theatre was, of course, confidential," he said, "and as it has not been made public, I could not discuss it."

In addition to being Chief Engineer for the Public Service Commission of New York City, Mr. Seaman is consulting engineer for the Department of Bridges, New York; the Subway Commission, Cambridge, Mass., and is Bridge Engineer for the Erie Railroad system. He also is allied in a principal or consulting capacity with some of the leading architects and builders in the East.

He came to Washington simply to satisfy himself regarding the Knickerbocker disaster, he said, largely because of his interest in theatre construction and his connection with the Brooklyn theatre disaster.

ALL KARLIST LEADERS FREE.

Major Imprisoned Since Ex-Emperor's Coup d'Etat Released.

BUDAPEST, Feb. 2.—Major Oostenburg, who, with his troops, accompanied former Emperor Karl on the latter's attempt to regain his throne last October, and who has been imprisoned since then, was released last night.

Thus all the Karlist leaders are now free.

MT. VERNON MOVIE THEATRE CLOSED BY MAYOR AS UNSAFE

Fiske Acts Quickly When Building
Inspector Makes Report on
Lyric's Condition.

Mayor Fiske of Mt. Vernon to-day ordered the Lyric Theatre, in South Fifth Avenue, near First Street, a motion picture house, closed because he considered the building unsafe. This is the oldest theatre in Mt. Vernon, having been built forty years ago. The order to close the Lyric was handed to Chief of Detectives Silverstein, who served it on the proprietor.

Mayor Fiske said, "Building Inspector Burden reported to me that the Lyric was unsafe so I decided to act quickly and close it. I don't intend to have a disaster on my hands like that which happened in Washington. If I can prevent it, I have caused an inspection of every theatre in Mt. Vernon. The report on the Lyric Theatre shows that the galleries are supported by roof trusses which make it unsafe and it is doubtful if it can ever be placed in a safe condition."

HARVEY STARTS FOR LONDON.
PARIS, Feb. 3.—George Harvey, American Ambassador to Great Britain, left for London yesterday noon. He had spent several days in Paris on his way from Cannes, where he suffered minor injuries in an automobile accident during the recent meeting of the Allied Supreme Council.

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TO SAFEGUARD CITY FROM FOREIGN PLAGUES

Col. Gibbs Sails for Poland as New
York Health Adviser.

As a safeguard against the introduction through this port of communicable diseases, such as typhus and cholera, Col. E. C. Gibbs of No. 5125 Grand Concourse will sail for Poland to-morrow on the steamship America of the United States Lines, as a representative of Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Commissioner of Health.

Dr. Gibbs sails in the name of the Sanitary Relief Expedition, organized yesterday in Dr. Copeland's office, and he will be in constant communication with the Health Commissioner, forwarding information as

to the progress of his investigations and studies of dreaded diseases. Also he will seek to prevent the spread of their infection to this country by immigrants.

FIRE DOES \$10,000 DAMAGE.
Fire discovered at 11 o'clock to-day in building Nos. 41 and 43 Trade Place, Brooklyn, occupied by the Columbia Cement and the Eastern Bronze and Wire Company, did \$10,000 damage. The cause is unknown. Frank O'Brien, thirty-one, of No. 875 Broadway, employed in the Columbia Cement Company, the only employee in the works at the time, was badly burned about the face and hands endeavoring to extinguish the blaze. He was sent to the Cumberland Street Hospital.

VOWS VENGEANCE ON SON WHO KILLED BROTHER

Mother Promises to Aid Police in
Sending Man to Chair.

Mrs. Lucy Gazzo, sixty-five years old, of No. 18 Bedford Street, Newark, stood over the body of her son, Joseph, slain, she said, by his brother in the hallway of their home last night, and swore she would send the murderer to the electric chair. Joseph was shot three times by Luigi Gazzo after he had attempted to prevent the latter from breaking down the door of his mother's apartment. Luigi had threatened to beat her, the woman also told the police, who are searching for the man.

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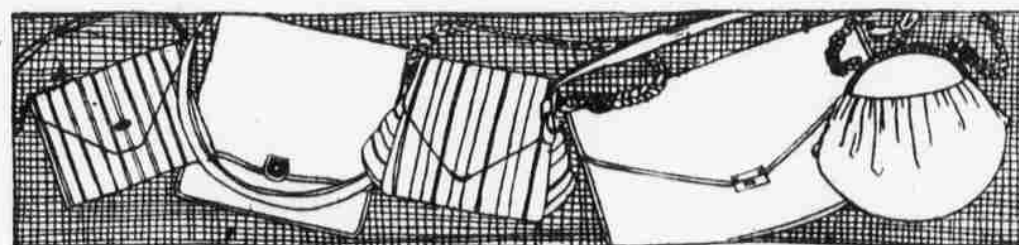
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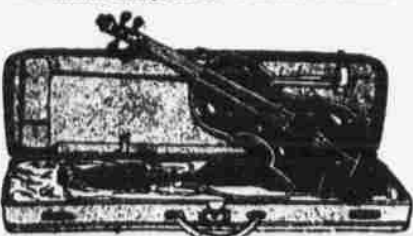
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